A Sketch of the Life of Captain John Savage, J.P.

FIRST SETTLER IN SHEFFORD COUNTY, 1792

ALSO THE EARLY HISTORY OF

St. John's Church

WEST SHEFFORD, QUE. 1821—1921

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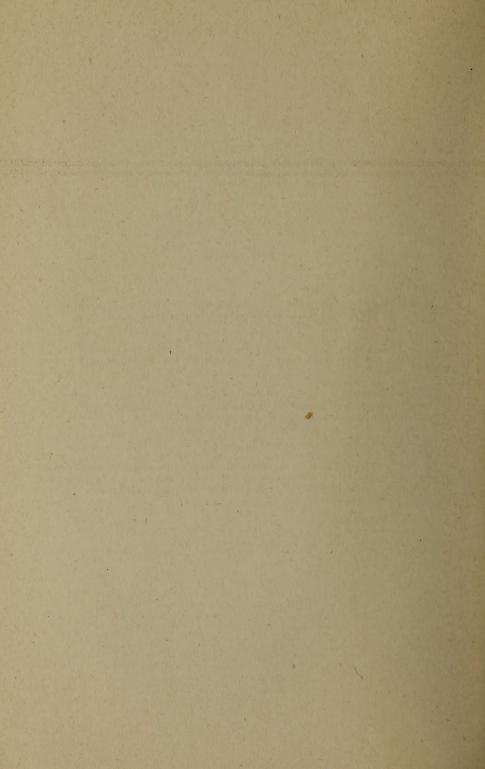
Foreword

"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father and he will shew thee, thy elders and they will tell thee" Deut 32-7.

There ought to be in every family a book called the "Golden Book of Records", Reading this, each individual could see as in a mirror, his own family with its memories of the past.

There is true enjoyment in striving to discover facts relating to the lives of the early pioneers, and to make known the bonds of relationship which unite the present families to their ancestors, and to each other.

Montaigne said, "what a delight it would be to me to have some one relate the manners, the look, the countenance, the every day thought and the fortunes of my ancestors." We also would be glad to know of the deeds of our ancestors. They have faithfully served their God and country, and have been by their every day acts, the honour of our family. They now rest from their labours and their works do follow them.



Captain John Savage

John Savage Sr., the subject of this sketch, was born in 1740, and came of a wealthy and influential family in the North of Ireland. With his brothers James and Edward he settled near New Concord and Spencertown, not far from the Hudson River, in the state of New York. This part of the country had been settled only a few years previous by immigrants from the New England States although a few Hollanders had visited the vicinity about the year 1700.

This section of New York has produced a number of famous men and women, Samuel J. Tilden, Martin Van Buren, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, D. D. nephew of the famous Jonathan Edwards, who for many years had charge of the old Presbyterian Church in Spencertown which was first organized as the "Proprietor's Meeting House," Congregational in 1771. A list of names of the early settlers in this locality includes Palmer, Pratt, Savage, Beebe, Cady, Eaton, Lovejoy, Mather, (descendants of the famous clergymen Increase and Cotton Mather).

Here the subject of our paper met and married Ann Pratt, eldest daughter of Elisha Pratt, deacon of the Proprietor's Meeting House. The latter had come from Connecticut to Spencertown where he peaceably purchased a large tract of land from the Indians. The identical farm is still owned by a member of the family, Mr. Wm. Hawley a New York millionaire, whose mother Frances Rhoda Pratt was great great grand-daughter of Elisha Pratt.

In the early days, the eastern part of Chatham County where Spencertown is situated, was the domain of Patroon Van Rensselaer, but no special effort was made to define his claims and many came in and purchased land from the Mohican Indians. A controversy arose in regard to the titles without reaching any satisfactory results; therefore on May 15, 1774, a petition was prepared to be submitted to King George III, asking him to recognize the claims of the settlers who had peacefully and unhindered settled upon their lands. Hon. James Savage (brother of Capt. Savage) and Nathaniel Culver were sent to England to secure a Royal Grant to the settlers to confirm their titles to the land, but owing to the growing disaffection existing between the Colonies and the Royal Government they were unsuccessful in their mission and the titles were not secured until some years after the Revolution. The above mentioned James Savage was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1792, Commissioner of Education in 1795, and member of the Assembly from 1790 to 1800.

In 1791 an Uncle, Edward Savage was elected Senator for the Eastern District of New York State. In 1781 another relative, William Savage, and sixteen other persons were "appointed informing officers whose duty it was to stop people traveling on the Sabbath and to take notice of all breaches of the Peace."

Among Mrs. Savage's relatives we find that her eldest brother, Elisha Pratt Jr. was admitted to practice as attorney on Jan. 13th., 1787. Her second brother, David Pratt was a Colonel in the American army at the time of the Revolution, and was one of the Judges for the trial of ten men committed for the murder of Sheriff Cornelius Hogeboom in Feb. 1792.

Like his father Deacon Elisha Pratt, he was always very active in everything pertaining to the Church. Her youngest brother Joel Pratt was a Captain in the American Rebel forces. Two nephews also occupied distinguished positions, the Hon. Azariah Pratt was chosen Member of the Assembly in 1820, and Erastus Pratt was Justice of the Peace and City Clerk for Hudson, a nearby town for many years.

One of the saddest aspects of the Revolution was the division in families; parents and children ranged against each other as the tide of feeling rose higher and higher, brother fighting against brother in bitter warfare. The Pratts all favoured the Revolutionists with the exception of two sisters, Ann, who married Captain Savage, and Lydia, the wife of Roswell Spaulding.

Of the Savages, those who remained loyal to the King were Capt. Savage, with his son John Jr.; the Captain's younger brother Edward Savage with his three sons, James, John and Peter; and another nephew Abraham Savage.

In the History of Columbia County N.Y. we find the following paragraphs

"A memorable Special meeting was held June 24, 1776, when the inhabitants declared themselves independent. The question being put, whether the said district chooses to have the United American Colonies independent of Great Britain, voted unanimously in the affirmative."

At the end of the Revolution as much bitterness was shown in Spencertown and Chatham, a town about four miles distant, as elsewhere. We find in the old records that on May 6, 1783, "The inhabitants voted to confiscate the property of the Tories (as the loyal British were termed) and not allow them residence in the district."

Captain Savage owned a large tract of land near Spencertown, which includes the fine farms now owned by William Clark, E. D. Tracey and C. Dunlap. The large wooden house in colonial style still stands and is occupied by Mr. Tracey.

One day while ploughing in his field with oxen, some men, including two of his brothers-in-law came to secure his signature to a declaration of Revolution. He flatly refused, and in consequence was called a "rebel," his cattle seized and himself put in prison.

Mr. C. Thomas in his history of Shefford, page 13, gives a copy of the petition sent by Capt. Savage in 1792 to Alured Clark, Major General Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces in Canada. Among other things he says of himself that he "took an early and active part in the late rebellion and served as lieutenant in a corps raised by Governor Tryon for His Majesty's service. being made prisoner by the rebels and refusing to join them, he was committed to Albany jail from whence he escaped and joined the army at New York, with which he served until taken a prisoner a second time and closely confined in irons in Kingston jail. He was very serviceable to the scouts sent out from this province by Governor Haldimand.

In part of a journal of Captain Savage's adventures during the Revolution. He states that in May 1775 he was chosen (by the rebels) to command a company in behalf of Congress and to sign a paper called the Association. He refused and was sent to Albany jail charged with being a Tory and drinking King George's health. After being committed to the fort he was released and obliged to give bonds for five hundred pounds. Later he had between twenty and thirty able men with him, the most of them supported at his own expense, and these he was to hold in readiness to take either to New York or Canada. In October, 1776, he was captured by the rebels (Americans) and sentenced to be sent in irons to Semesbury Mines but on the way he was rescued by Lieut. Sharp who had raised a party of men for that purpose. From Great Barrington he set out for Canada with a party of twenty four men which he commanded.

It was necessary for him to change his course and he then went to Waterbury, Conn., and joined with Capt. Heycock. From there he went to New York city and was given command of a company under Col. Tenning.

Having been sent out with despatches for the British, he was taken prisoner by the rebels, his legs chained under a horse and driven in that condition to the Barracks at Fishkill, N.Y. (on two former occasions he had eluded his captors and afterwards they took extra precautions).

At Fishkill he was ironed hands and feet and kept two weeks. From there in January, 1777, he was sent to Kingston jail and kept in irons hand and feet for ten months. From Kingston, N.Y., he was sent to the jail in Hartford, Conn., still in irons. Managing to free one of his hands he knocked one of the sentries down, the other prisoners joined him and all made their escape. Before they reached their friends they were obliged to hide in a swamp and suffered every hardship imaginable.

Again taken prisoner, a rope was placed around his neck in order to hang him at once, but being a very witty man he made some remark which pleased his captors so much they put him in prison instead.

He spent in all four years in jail, supported entirely at his own expense. As soon as peace was made, he fled north with his family by way of Lake Champlain.

The following notes of his journeys about 1782-3 found in one of his old note books are of interest.

BILL OF EXPENSE

Date				£	s.	d.	
Aug	7	1782	At Lem Warner's	~	1		
Aug.	9	"	At Badcock, At Arlington	1	9		
Aug.	10	66	At Barret	-	8		
Aug.	12	66	Left Wherlock and got				
Aug.	13		To Castle Town		8		
Aug.	14	66	Left Castle Town				
Aug.	16	66	At Burlington down the east bay 5 miles	-	8		
Aug.	18	64	On Lake Champlain		the in		
Aug.	19	66	At Saint Johns				
Aug.	20	"	At Saint Johns				
Sept.	16	1782	Set out from Saint Johns				
Sept.	17	64	Got to Dutchmans Point, got 19 miles that day				
Sept.	18	44	Left Dutchmans Point				
Sept.	19	- 66	Got to Potton Point				
Sept.	20	"	Got to D. Filo's farm				
Sept.	21	66	Got within 5 miles		1.4		
Sept.	22	64	Got to Castle Town				
Sept.	23	66	Got to Pollet and paid my account				
Oct.	21	1783	Set out from Crown Point with our cattle.	Parsons	and	Smith	
came through the woods.							
		0					

A passport from Sir Frederick Haldimand reads as follows:-

Frederick Haldimand

Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec and Territories thereon depending, etc.,, General and Commander and Chief of His Majesty's forces in said Province, and the frontiers thereof etc., etc.,

To all officers civil and Military whom it may concern.,

Permit the Bearer hereof, Mr. John Savage and his brother Edward Savage, to pass from hence to Crown Point and to bring his family and effects to the Loyal Block House to stay without let or hindrance until further orders.....

This Passport to be in force until the purpose of it shall be accomplished.

Given at Quebec 22nd. Aug. 1783.

FRED. HALDIMAND
By His Excellency's Command,
R. MATHEWS.

Also a letter addressed to him at Dutchman's point from the Captain commanding the fort at Isle aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, dated Nov. 3 1783, stating that, "by direction of the commander in chief, the commanding officers at Dutchman's, Point are directed to give you any assistance you may want in bringing your cattle to this province." Captain Savage settled at Caldwell's Manor, not far from Clarenceville near Lake Champlain in 1784. Henry Caldwell of Belmont, near Quebec, on September 2, 1784, appointed Captain Savage as his attorney at Caldwell's Manor to grant permission to people to settle there.

Again in 1792, same Henry Caldwell certified that Mr. John Savage, Captain of Militia under Dorchester for Caldwell Manor, within the jurisdiction of the King's posts was particularly recommended to him by Col. Mathews, then secretary to General Haldimand, as a staunch friend of the Government, who had several times risked his life during the war. That during the rebellion he had suffered much in his person and property, for which, owing to some informality in the time and mode of his application, he had received no compensation. Also that Caldwell had known Captain Savage for upwards of ten years (or since 1782.)

In 1792 that part of Caldwell's Manor on which Captain Savage's farm was situated was claimed by the Americans and Col. Allen attempted to remove him for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the American States. On which account in 1792 he petitioned the Lieut. Governor of Canada, Alured Clark, to grant him the Township of Shefford. He obtained this the same year as appears by a Minute in Council dated Aug. 4, 1792. By it sixty-four thousand six hundred acres of land were granted to him, and his associates.

The original parchment of the Shefford Letters Patent or grant is now in the Museum of the Brome County Historical Society, Knowlton, Que.

Among other certificates accompanying his petition is one dated February 16, 1786, and signed by Col. David Pratt, Col. Asa Waterman and several other officers stating that "Captain Savage left his home and family in pursuit of means for the British Government's support. In all his prosecutions and confinements he was supported at his own expense. Those who were acquainted with the steps he took were not a little apprehensive that his undaunted conduct would be the occasion of his losing his life. This loyalty was manifested by his coming out of New York with recruiting orders to levy men for the King's service. The discovery of this brought on him almost every severity short of death.

Also the following bill of losses-

Account of losses sustained by John Savage during the late unhappy dissension in America Viz.,

DATE			£.	s.	d.
Feb. 7	1776	To cash paid to defray the expense of a Con-			
		tinental Guard when a prisoner with them	6	-	-
Aug.	1777	To three cows taken by the States	16		1-
		Expense in Fishkill Barracks and money tak-			
		en from me	24	1	-
		From Fishkill to Kingston jail	145	-	
		From Kingston to Hartford, to Windsor and			
		from thence to Noridge	146	_	_
		For the loss of my crops in 1777	100	-	-
	1100	Thirty-six journeys to the Commissioners	31	-	, -
		New York Currency.	468	-	-

In 1788 Captain Savage was appointed "Captain in the Militia of the Circle of St. Johns" by Commission signed by Lord Dorchester, Governor of Canada. A second commission dated 1805 signed by Sir Robert Shore Milnes appointed "John Savage Esq., Captain in the Township of Shefford of the 2nd Batt. of Militia of which Sir John Johnson, Baronet, is Colonel."

In 1804 he received a Commission signed by Sir James Henry Craig appointing "Captain John Savage the first Justice of the Peace for the Trial of Causes in the Townships of Potton, Bolton, Granby, Shefford and Stukely."

On March 8, 1824, when Captain Savage was eighty-four years of age a certificate was granted him signed by the Earl of Dalhousie testifying that "on account of age and infirmities and as a mark of regard for past conduct, permission was granted him to retire from the service with all the privileges attached thereunto."

Captain Savage held command of the 2nd., Batt. in the Frontier Light Infantry, which was formed of two companies drawn from the six Battalions of Township Militia. General Order 13 Aug. 1813 attached them to the Canadian Voltigeurs, of which corps they became Nos. 9 and 10 Companies, by General Order 10th. June 1814. This corps served from May 1813 to its disbandment March 24th. 1815. Captain Savage with the other officers received the Prince Regent's Land grant for services during the war of 1812-15.

Following is a copy of the original "Annual Roll of Captain John Savage's Company commanded in March 1813.

Age

Age. 69—John Savage, Captain.

45-John E. Savage.

40—John Savage, Jr. Lieut. 41—John Allen, Sargeant.

LIST OF PRIVATES

26-Elias Bell. 24—George Bell. 32-Samuel Bell. 44—Edward Graves. 31—Gilman Graves. 27—Dudley Hayes. 39—Hezekiah Wood. 32—Simon Griggs. 28—Abraham Griggs. 21—David Savage. 38-Simon Door. 41—Abraham Savage. 42—Anthony Cutler. 42—Theddeus Tuttle. 50-Truman Tuttle. 29—Abraham Cole. 60—Peter Vanallen. 30—Peter Vanallen, Jr. 24-Herbert Vanallen. 21—Gilbert Vanallen. 42—Seth Alexander. 32-Arbe Alexander. 36-Joel Alexander. -Cyrus Alexander. 40—Jacob Alard. 34—John Clark. 18—Joel Spaulding. 17—Joseph Plumby Savage. 50-Charles Allen. 50—Joseph Parce. 36-Henry Door. 61-James Young. 68-William Bell. 28—John Lav. 67—Edward Savage. 72—James Berry. 30—Richard Peleg. 59-John Spaulding. 18—Wheeler Richardson. 28-John Berry. 25-Lewis Sherbner. 52—Alexander Douglas. 20—Antoine Allaire. 19—Alfred Nash.

A list of the names of the Militia in the Township of Granby with their age.

Age. Age. Bet. 40 & 50 Simon Doore. 23 Stephen Doore. 19 James Doore. Bet. 40 & 50 Jonathan Herrick. Bet. 50 & 60 John Horner. Bet. 30 &40 John Horner, Jr. 27 William Horner. 22 Hiram Horner. 18 Andrew Horner. Bet. 20 &30 Hazen Horner. 21 Elias Horner. 26 Thomas A. Willis. Bet. 30 & 40 John Sweat. Bet. 20 & 30 Joseph Kent. 46 Joel Alexander. 17 Simpson H. Alexander. Bet. 20 & 30 Bet. 20 & 30 Elijah Hall. John Camber. Bet. 40 & 50 Moses Sweat. 20 John Sweat, Jr. 18 Joseph Sweat. 40 Roswell Spaulding. 47 Cyrus Alexander. 19 Cyrus Alexander, Jr. 43 James Savage. 18 Henry Savage.

During the first couple of years the supplies were procured at a place now called Philipsburg, within a short distance from Missisquoi Bay, (part of the Champlain Lake) 43 miles distant from West Shefford. This road passes through Farnham, Dunham, St. Armand, etc., and together with the other main roads in the Township was first opened by Capt. Savage. He had pioneered the way—compass in one hand to keep straight on his course, axe in the other to mark the trees which were to indicate the way to be taken; followed by men who cut down the trees and cleared away the underbrush to make way for the sleds which were laden with household goods and provisions, while the family brought up the rear.

On account of the continued persecution of Col. Ethan Allen, Captain Savage was obliged, hurriedly, one night in early winter 1792 to leave his farm in that part of Caldwell Manor, which was newly claimed by the Americans and make his way to Shefford with his family on an ox sled, in order to be within British lines and safety. Necessity compelled him to locate in Shefford before the Letters Patent were issued. Thus it occurred that he and his family were the only white people isolated and alone that first winter in the unbroken forests of Shefford.

Beside the stream near the village of West Shefford may be seen a pile of stones that marks the spot where he built the "Dutch" back of his first cabin made of rough logs with a roof of hemlock bark.

Captain Savage was obliged to be away from home one night before the door was put up, and the family had only a blanket fastened over the doorway to keep out the cold. A bear endeavoured to enter and the only way Mrs. Savage saved herself and family was by keeping a good fire and presenting a piece of burning wood to his nose when ever he tried to make his way in. Thus they watched all night and with the return of day the bear departed.

Captain Savage brought with him thirty head of cattle, but on account of the intense cold and lack of fodder all died except three. My great grandmother, Anna Savage Allen and her sisters cut down evergreens and endeavoured to save the cattle by feeding them the "browse" or foliage, but of no avail. The story of that first dreadful winter was repeated about the fireside for many years. It is a pity that no written record was kept.

I shall not dwell at length on the hardships and trials endured by these pioneers, the story of all the U. E. Loyalists is similar. Our Canadian Histories usually devote a chapter to their privations and early struggles.

The following is an extract from an account kept by Captain Savage during his efforts to obtain the grant of the Township of Shefford.

Sheffo		urney	to Quebec to obtain the Warrant of Survey for the	Town	nship o
June to Aug.	5	1792	97 days To my expenses	£ 48 23	s. 10 15
Sept.			To exploring 10 days. To cash expended	2	10
Oct.	20		To exploring for a road with one Hand, three weeks myself	10	10 10
Nov.	15		To cash expended	1	10
			Yamaska River 4 weeks each @ 40 shillings month To myself 28 days	12 14	=
May Feb.		1793	Provisions and money expended	16	-0
CD		1190	structions for the survey of the Township. Three times with David Davis 58 days. To Mr. Tuttler's charge for bringing the instructions	29	
			from Chambly to Missisquoi To pay the Surveyor's expense from Chambly to Shefford		12
			To cash paid John Clark, Deputy Surveyor for 92 days.	46	-
			Paid seven men for three months and two days To expenses of fetching from Chambly and Missisquoi Bay to Shefford	43 100	
			To my attendance at Missisquoi Bay to meet the applicants and attending on the Land Board	80	-

		m: O I		
		To journey to Quebec at the time Wm. Grant peti-		
		tioned for the Township of Shefford 40 days	20^{-1}	
		To cash expended	9	12
		To cash paid Vandervelden and other expenses	18	5
		To my attendance four times at Missisquoi Bay to		٠,
		meet the Committee	15	
		Paid Jesse Pennoyer for my part of his journey to	10	
		Quebec	1	10
		To eash paid to Samuel Willard towards his journey	-	10
		_ to Quebec	6	5
		To cutting roads through Shefford.	10	0
June	24		10	
		To my attendance 4 days at Missisquoi Bay to meet		
\$100	* .*	the Committee	2	
		To my expenses	1,	
July	20	To journey to Quebec 20 days	10	-
Burlow	2.1	To my expenses	13	5
		To paid Jesse Pennoyer and Patrick Conroy for go-		•
		ing to Shefford twelve days	6	
		To their expenses	1	10
		To their expenses.	Ŧ	10
		To Richard Powers going to Montreal to carry		
		papers, 2 days.	1	5
		To his expenses	1	5
		Paid to Mr. Coffin	Ť	8
		Paid John Clark for making out the returns 5 days.	2	10

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA. S. SERIES.

To His Excellency, the Right Honorable Guy Lord Dorchester, Captain General and Commander in Chief of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova-Scotia and New Brunswick.

The Petition of John Savage, Captain of Militia of the Township of Shefford.

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner is informed some person (Wm. Grant,) of Montreal has applied for the Township of Shefford, a tract for which your said petitioner stands recommended to your Lordship, to have for himself a Grant of twelve hundred acres therein and his Associates a share which was to be determined on the return of the Survey thereof. He begs leave to state;

That on the 18th. August, 1792, a warrant of survey for running the outlines of Shefford issued in his favor, which was executed; by the erroneous course of the adjoining lines that operation was by the Surveyor General declared totally useless.

On the 30th. September he obtained, agreeable to his desire, a letter from the Surveyor General, covering instructions to Mr. John Clark Deputy Surveyor, for subdividing that Township with two schemes for laying apart the reserves for the Crown and Clergy, leaving it to your petitioner's choice to adopt either of them. He made election of the mode expressed by the annexed diagram, and caused the field work there to be executed, strictly conformable thereto, at his own and sole expense, after correcting the errors formerly committed in running the outlines of the adjoining Townships.

In December 1793, he forwarded his List of forty eight associates, thirty-two of which were approved on the 17th, January then ensuing by the Honorable Council, and admitted to take the Oaths, without precluding the other sixteen to produce proof of their fitness to become settlers in this province.

Your Lordships petitioner having thus, (even prior to the advertisements from the Council-office published in the Quebec Gazette to the end of limiting leaders to a certain time for complying with certain rules) gone through the several stages previous to the issuing of the patent, he now only awaits to be made acquainted with, what share it may please your Lordship to allow to his associates, when he will, without loss of time, produce a sufficient number of fit persons to cover the remainder of the Township.

In the meantime he conceived himself in a regular channel of application unwilling to render himself troublesome by a premature demand of a grant, he thought that immediate industry, towards rescuing the tract in question from a state of wilderness, would be perfectly consistent with the views of Government and strengthen his pretentions to those lands. Impressed with these Ideas, and relying with implicit confidence on the Faith, Justice, and liberalty of Government, he devoted the whole of his time to the settling his Associates, building of a Mill, cutting of roads and similar costly improvements.

In his own behalf he entreats your Lordship's permission to say that, during the late American contest, no man more cheerfully abandoned his property, sacr,-ficed for years his liberty or exposed his life to evident danger on secret service, in support of the Royal cause than your petitioner, who has never before solicited or any ways obtained the smallest reward from Government for his Services, which he is ready, independent of the annexed certificates, to substantiate by undeniable proof.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that it may please your Lordship, in reward of his past services and his industry of bringing thirty Loyal Settlers to the Township of Shefford to confirm him the property thereof, and to grant to his Associates twelve hundred acres each therein, as an encouragement to continue his improvements, and as in duty bound he will ever pray.

JOHN SAVAGE.

In the "Haldimand Papers" Class A. There is a petition from "U E. Loyalists" dated July 14th, 1783 and among the names of those who signed we find that of Captain John Savage.

In the Public Archives of Canada we have the return of the Original Associates for the Township of Shefford. Of the forty-one names the following are specially designated as Loyalists: Captain John Savage, leader; Richard Allen, James, John and Peter Savage, nephews of Captain Savage; William Bell, who served 29 years in His Majesty's army, and his three sons, John, Samuel and Elias Bell. Some of the descendants of the last named still live near West Shefford.

Malcolm McFarlane, John Katzback (or Knatchback) John Mock, Sr., John Mock, Jr., and Joseph Mock are designated as "Loyal Subjects".

All the early settlers were not Loyalists, but the above list will show many exceptions. Through ignorance of the order in Council many have assumed that an early land grant was an effective title to the distinction.

Public Archives of Canada, Series S. Return of Original Settlers in 1800. List of the first settlers in Shefford, together with date when they "went on the lot" assigned to them:—

1792—Captain John Savage, the leader 1793—John Savage, Jr. 1793—John Allen. 1795—Hezekiah Wood. 1799—John Griggs. 1799—Richard Powers. 1799—William Powers. 1795—Richard Allen. 1799—Peter Savage. 1799—John E. Savage. 1799—James Savage. 1793—Ezekiel Lewis. 1797—Anthony Cutler. 1796—Solomon Kinneson. 1799—Thomas Wood. 1795—Isaac Kinneson. 1798-Malcolm MacFarlane. 1796—Peter Hayes. 1796—Edward Graves. 1799—Henry Powers. 1797—Silas Lewis. 1796—Alexander Douglass. 1796-James Bell. 1794—John Mock. 1797—Timothy Hoskins. 1796—William Moffit. 1799—Stephen Steveborough. 1794—Thaddeus Tuttle. 1794—Isaac Lawrence. 1794—Isaac Lawrence, Jr. 1794—Elijah Lawrence. 1795—James Berry. 1794—Abraham Kinneson. 1796—John Spaulding. 1793—John Katzbock (Knatzback or 1794—John Mock, Jr. Catchpaw). 1794—Joseph Mock. 1795—William Bell. 1795—John Bell. 1795—Samuel Bell. 1793-Elias Bell.

A paper prepared in 1900 for the District of Bedford Historical Society, states: "The leader of the Associates in Shefford Township was Captain John Savage, from the Hudson Valley (Spencertown, N. Y.) He made his first visit to Shefford in 1792, having come to Canada by way of Lake Champlain in 1783, The early history of Shefford is the history of the Savage family. It was the dominant family in its early settlement and even up to the middle of the century but only a few are now left there. It is perfectly clear that the first settlers in the Townships as a whole, were not the old Loyalists, yet a few stubborn men pitched their tents in the Seigniories. The Ontario lists of Loyalists containing many Eastern Townships names is procurable but there was unfortunately no special list for Quebec.

Captain Savage's only son, John Savage, Jr., settled and named Savage's Mills, in North Shefford. Only two of his grandchildren, both now quite aged still reside on the home farm, namely Mr. John Savage and his sister. Other families in Shefford bearing the name of Savage are descended from the Captain's nephews, sons of Edward Savage.

Personally Captain Savage was a large powerful man, of great courage and quick wit, just and kind in his dealings and unassuming character. He was the chief magistrate in the district and in that capacity settled many disputes. On one occasion his grandson, Abraham Allen, had a suit against a man named Alexander who was to have made a cart for him but failed to fulfil his obligation. The circumsstantial evidence was in favour of the man although he was really in the wrong. The captain decided against his grandson "for" said he "I must decide according to the proofs brought forward."

Mrs. Savage was a small gentle lady, but very active—witness the fact that the clothes in those days had to be woven on hand looms from yarn spun on the old fashioned wheel, and we can readily understand that idle moments for the mother were few and far between. She was very religious and interested in serious subjects. One of her favorite hymns began thus:

Hail ye sighing sons of sorrow View with me th'autumnal gloom Learn from thence your fate tomorrow, Dead, perhaps laid in the tomb.

See all nature fading, dying Silent, all things seem to mourn Life from vegetation flying Brings to mind the mouldering urn.

Fast my sun of life's declining I must sleep in death's dark night But my hope pure and refining Rests in future life and light.

Anne Savage, the eldest daughter of Captain Cavage, greatly resembled her mother in every way, being small and active, with blue eyes and light hair, Her husband John Allen Sen. was over six feet in height, a quiet home loving, peaceable man, their ten children all lived to a good age, five over eighty years each. Their's was the first frame house built in the Township and they also were the first family to own an iron stove.

John Allen's father was supposed to have been murdered, and his body put in Lake Champlain by two strangers who were seen in the vicinity. His brave widow and family suffered many hardships from poor crops, and the depredations of bears and wolves.

John Allen, Jr., eldest son of John Allen and Anne Savage was the first white child born in Shefford. The second, Abraham, when only six years of age was sent through a piece of woods on an errand to a neighbour's house. On the way home he was followed by what he supposed was a large black dog but on nearer approach the animal showed strange antics and grimaces. It approached on its hind feet and rose to seize him, but having heard that a bold human countenance would keep a wild beast in check, he looked the animal in the eyes and prayed for help retreating at the same time. He continued in this way until he came so near home the animal left him. Members of the family at once hastened to the woods, tracked the bear and killed it.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST SHEFFORD

Church Matters

From the date of Captain Savage's settlement in Shefford until the opening of St. John's Church, all religious services as well as legal transactions and trials were held in his home.

Whenever Bishop Stewart intended to hold a service within a radius of forty miles, he notified Captain Savage. In those days people cheerfully braved the dangers of a toilsome journey of many miles over rough roads and through woods in order to attend Church. Privileges were more appreciated when many difficulties had to be overcome.

From a large number of letters the following few are selected.

St. Armand, Jan. 10/1809.

Captain Savage,

Dear Sir:—

I am happy to inform you that it is intended that Divine Service should be performed in our new Church for the first Sunday the 29th., of this month, I hope that you and as many of your neighbours as can conveniently come will attend, Service will begin about eleven o'clock. I shall continue at Hoyck's some time longer, where we shall be happy to see you and Mrs. Savage.

Believe Me,

Yours very sincerely,

C. STEWART'

Dunham, 27th., Oct. 1818.

Captain Savage,

Dear Sir:-

I send this line to you to inform you that I request Public notice may be given of my intention to perform Divine Worship at your house (God willing) on Monday next, the 2nd., November, at the hour of eleven O'clock in the forenoon, and to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at that time. Please to notify all those who have children to be baptized of this appointment.

And you will oblige,

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

CHAS. O. COTTON.

Forwarded by Captain John Church.

Hatley, Dec. 26/1818.

Captain John Savage,

Dear Sir:-

The Duke of Richmond has appointed Mr. Henry Caldwell, and his secretary, Lt. Col. Ready to visit these Townships to enquire into our grievances (re-Clergy Reserves) and they propose going as far as Stanstead. I expect them about the first week in January, but I shall send a messenger to you on purpose to inform you of their approach or arrival that you may meet Mr. Caldwell here or in Stanstead.

Believe me,

Yours Faithfully,

C. STEWART.

Hatley, April 2nd., 1818.

Captain Savage,

Shefford,

Dear Sir:-

I have requested Mr. Lalanne (a notary) to confer with you on the subject of building a Church. It must be a work which will require considerable time to accomplish, but the sooner we begin operations the better. I wish you would as soon as convenient after you have made up your mind as to the donation you will give to the Church, appear before Messrs. Lalanne and the Rev. James Reid and give your assurance as to the quantity of land and so forth, that you will give I wish you to lay the foundation stone. Give my best regards to Mrs. Savage and believe me,

Yours faithfully,

C. STEWART.

Captain Savage then eighty years of age acceded to Bishop Stewart's request and Mr. Lalanne the notary drew up a statement of the lots he would give for the Church. The notary made a mistake and wrote down two more lots than Captain Savage intended, including his homestead. The blunder was discovered just in time, and several letters passed between the Captain, Bishop Stewart and Mr. Lalanne before the sale advertised for disposing of the lots. As it was one thousand acres or five lots were sold for the Church instead of the eight hundred acres he first intended giving. This land was sold for one dollar per acre being therefore equivalent to one thousand dollars. He also gave another hundred of improved land worth three dollars per acre to the Bishop as well as an extra \$200.00 to purchase a stove and other necessaries, making a total of \$1,500.00 before the Church was built. It will be seen later that he actually gave much more before the building was completed, and shouldered nearly the whole cost. Three old papers go to prove this fact, the first two are tenders for building the Church. One from John Wandby of Dunham, dated Jan., 20th., 1820 offering to complete the Church for \$1,600.00 after the foundation was laid; the second from John Roberts dated at Shefford 1820 willing to perform the same work for \$1,750.00.

The tenders were refused and Captain Savage appears to have had the oversight of the building operations himmself, for we find in his old account book and daily journal for 1820 some interesting items.

March 1st., 1820.

Dudley Hayes three cords and half of stove wood at \$7.00 per cord. He got the timber where the church is to be built for \$60.00. Ten cords of stone delivered at the place.

June 20th., Mr. Tenny begun at the Church with three men.

June 22nd. Wood, Wells, Lawrence his son and himself worked.

July 6th. Raised the Church. They said Mr. Wells promised them 100 dollars when the church was raised.

July 20th. John Tenny came to board the church.

Sept. 7th. Tenny, his son, Wells and Brown raised the steeple.

Oct. 21st. John Allen Jr., Abraham Allen, John Clark, Richard Allen worked at the church.

Oct. 25th. Finished the outside.

While the Church was in process of construction the builders Messrs Tenny and Wells stopped four months with Captain and Mrs. Savage.

The mason who laid the foundation was a man named Reed, while Hezekiah Wood hewed the timbers. Boards were furnished by John E. Savage. Nails by John Church and J. Baker, Paint, oil, etc., by Mr. Kemp who also cashed a bill on Messrs Blackwood and Co. Mr. Graves the blacksmith worked. There were also expenses sending for a diamond and cutting glass. All the above and many more items amounting to £197 were paid by Captain Savage.

The outside of the church was clapboarded. The inside of the walls framed and paneled as high as the pews round about, the sides above the paneling, the ceil ing and under the gallery, plastered. The pews mounted, panels raised, the in side of the pews framed, with flat panels. 10 windows, with circular tops. 2x6 Panel doors, raised and mounted and mouldings round all the windows and doors.

A further statement of the money expended by Captain Savage on the church ends as follows "John Savage paid for the Church £478. 17s. 6d. or over two thousand dollars.

The following is the first allotment of pews.

No. 3—John Allen

No. 5—Isaac Lawrence.

7—Dr. Stewart (Samuel Gale) No.

No. 8—Edward Graves

No. 9—Dr. Stewart

No. 10—Simon Griggs

No. 11—Robert Todd No. 12—Alfred Nash

No. 13—Captain Savage

No. 14—Captain Savage

No. 15—Captain Savage No. 16—Seth Alexander

No. 17—Sheldon Wells

No. 18—John E. Savage

No. 19—George Bell

No. 21—Dudley Hayes No. 22—Thomas Wood

No. 23—John Savage, Jr.

No. 25—John Ketchapa

A letter from Bishop Stewart to Captain Savage written at Frost Village in 1822, states that he is glad to learn from Rev. Mr. Whitwell that the pews in West Shefford Church sold well and asks that two pews may be given him for the Church building fund in place of fifty more acres of land which Captain Savage had promised him.

This last request was complied with on Nov., 9, 1822.

An old subscription paper dated July 17, 1819, contains the following names of those who would contribute "currency or labour to build a Church at West Shefford near the now dwelling house of Captain John Savage." It is the only record of any assistance received by Captain Savage for the Church building.

	£	S.	d.
John Bell	3	-	
Dudley Hayes	. 7	10	
John Katchapa	3	_	-
Peter Hayes	2		
Abraham Allen	2	10	
Hezekiah Wood	5	_	_
Ezekial Lewis	2		
Israel Banks	1	5	
Ammi R. R. Butler	2		
	£28	5	
	220	U	

Or about \$125.00.

The following is an account of the organization of the first Sunday School. "At a meeting of the inhabitants of West Shefford and East Farnham held on Monday Evening, March 11th 1822 in the house of Mr. Hezekiah Wood, it was resolved to establish a Church Sunday School, when the following persons gave in their names as teachers.

J. W. Clark Chester Cooley Dervilla Lawrence Isaac Lawrence Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence Miss Laura Lawrence Hez. Wood Dudley Hayes Silas Craig Alphonse Wells Mrs. Mary Cooley Miss Lovina Wood

COMMITTEE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dervilla Lawrence—Vice-President Hezekiah Wood—Treasurer J. W. Clark—Secretary Chester Cooley—

SUBSCRIBERS

Alfred Nash Peter Wood Thomas Wood Alphonso Wells

A list of books received of Rev. Mr. Whitwell for the use of the Sunday School. 2 containing the Church Catechism.

12 of Catechistical instruction.

1 Sheet of Hymns.

5 of Instructive Tales.

The Sunday School pupils made good progress as shown by the following list of May 7th.

Henry Hayes, Catechism 5 pages Joshua Clark, Catechism 11 pages Erastus Lawrence, Catechism 11 pages John Clark Catechism 10 pages Laura Lawrence, James Chap. 3 First John Chap. 1

Hulda Cowee, Catechism 16 pages Sarah Wood, Catechism 2 pages Harriet Wood, Catechism 5 pages Frances Hayes, Catechism 5 pages Anna Clark, Catechism 12 pages

As the years passed softening the bitter feelings of Revolutionary times, many friendly letters passed between Captain Savage and Mrs. Savage's relatives in Spencertown, N. Y. The following is one from Erastus Pratt a nephew of Mrs. Savage to Captain Savage, written at Spencertown.

Captain John Savage,

My Dear Sir:-

Mr. Ebenezer Keeler has just called on me. He says he was lately with you in Shefford. I was glad to hear you were recovering your health and that our Aunt was so comfortable in her old age. You have both almost done with this world. I should be extremely glad to see you once more. I think you ought to come once more to this country. You have a great many friends and relatives here. Pray try to come and see them.

My father (Col. David Pratt) now over eighty years of age is very smart, active and hearty. We heard from Captain Joel Pratt lately, he was well, but lonesome since he lost his wife. My family are well, your friends all well here.

I am Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ERASTUS PRATT.

Following is a copy of a letter written to Erastus Pratt when Captain Savage was eighty years of age.

Shefford, March 5, 1820

Mr. Erastus Pratt,

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter by the hand of Mr. Whatly and happy to hear from you and our friends in that part of the world, hoping that we all may be prepared for that journey we must shortly take.

I was telling Rev. Dr. Stewart what my intention was if I had Justice done me at Quebec. I thought to have had a Church built in this place. He asked me what land I would give, I told him eight hundred acres. He said he would give me credit on Church one dollar per acre. I have a number in this place and no place for them to meet on the Sabbath. It is to be built within twenty rods of my house, God willing. What I have left will enable me to settle with all my friends and give every man his just due. If I should get a house built I and my family can meet in and learn their duty to their God and their neighbour. I have five sons-in-law and one son, and they have large families, forty seven living children born in this town.

I am so infirm that I cannot walk over my floor without a staff in my hand. I don't think that I shall ever see Montreal again. The rest of all our friends are in good health at present.

Remember me to all my friends. Your old Aunt wishes to be remembered to her brother.

I remain your ever well wisher and assured friend,

JOHN SAVAGE.

My hand shakes, I can't write.

The following prayers written in the trembling hand of the Captain over a hundred years ago are found with several others. They are at least an indication of the writer's thoughts and aspiration.

No. 1. Be gracious, O most merciful God, to the whole race of mankind Pity the deplorable state of those that know Thee not, and have never heard of Thy name. Reform the wicked and impenitent and let all that name the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

And now O God, relying firmly on Thy gracious promises, I commend into Thy hands myself and all that Thou hast given or blessed me with, My soul and body and all my relations keep us from all evil, Lead us into all good, carry us safely through the dangers and temptations of this wicked world to that place of everlasting rest and peace which Thou hast prepared for those that Die in the Lord, through the merits of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour, in whose words I sum up and recommend the wants of all mankind, together with my own, Saying, Our Father."

And now O Lord, that we are about to lie down upon our beds of rest, may we be always ready, that we may never die in such a state as we should fear to die in, but that whether we live we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die we may be Thine, through Jesus Christ our Lord on whose Most Holy Name and most prevailing word we further call upon Thee, Saying, Our Father."

No. 2. "May the good Spirit of God dispose me unto and assist me in His service, The Lord give us all a true and lively sense of our wants and of His mercy and presence, that we may serve Him with our hearts as well as with our bodies, and that our prayer may be heard for the Sake of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

In the cemetery at West Shefford stand four very old grave stones in a row bearing the following inscriptions:—

Captain John Savage Sen., d. September 27 1826, aged 85 years. He was the first settler and Leader of this Township and the chief instigator of Building this Church.

Ann Pratt wife of Captain Savage, d. June 8, 1822 aged 81 years.

Anna Savage, daughter of John and Ann Savage, consort of John Allen Sen., d. October 26, 1841 aged 67 y. 6 m. 9 d.

John Allen Sen., d. April 1, 1842. aged 74 years.

Now I beneath the cold earth am sleeping Life's affliction o'er
Is there for me any eye weeping
That I am no more
Is there any heart still memory keeping
Of heretofore?

Mrs. Savage died three years before her husband and was greatly missed by him. Their daughter, Lydia Savage had married Hezekiah Wood of West Shefford and with her the aged couple spent their last days. The youngest daughter, Olive Savage married Augustus Garlick, son of Rev. Reuben Garlick, M. D., who died in 1805 and was the first clergyman in Shefford.

Some of the early settlers were buried on their own farms, and since the latter have been sold to strangers the old graves in many instances have been ploughed over and forgotten. The majority however sleep near the Captain and his brave wife at West Shefford.

The old wooden Church was pulled down in 1882 to make way for a modern brick structure. The papers from the corner stone of the old Church as well as the bell and baptismal font were removed to the new Church. The cemetery still remains a perpetual memorial to these two pioneers in the former wilds of Shefford.

We who in our comfortable homes reap the fruits of their toils and hardships, can never realize how much we owe to them, and in the words of the inscription on John Allen's tombstone, may there ever be many "hearts still memory keeping of heretofore."

A list of the children and grand children of Captain John Savage and his wife Ann Pratt, together with the names of their respective husbands and wives. The last survivor died about the end of the last century.

CHILDREN

- 1.—Lieut. John Savage, Jr.—Magdalen Mock.
- 2.—Lydia Savage—Hezekiah Wood 3.—Anna Savage—Sergeant John Allen
- 4.—Rhoda Savage—John Clark
- 5.—Mary (Polly) Savage—Silas Lewis
- 6.—Olive Savage—Augustus Garlick

GRAND CHILDREN

- 7.—Amanda Savage
- 8.—Annie Savage—Jedediah Clark Spencer
- 9.—Hannah Savage—James Fitchett
- 10.—John Edward Savage—Berintha Hoskins
- 11.—Abraham Henry Savage—Mary Todd
- 12.—Elias Pratt Savage—Adeline Lewis 13.—Elizabeth Savage—Lieut. Col. Benjamin Savage
- 14.—Charles Mock Šavage—Mary Ferguson
- 15.—Elizabeth Wood—Dudley Hayes
- 16.—Annie Wood—Simon Todd 17.—Lydia Wood—Roswell Cutler
- 18.—Mary (Polly) Wood—Silas Craig
- 19.—Thomas Wood—Miriam Cowee
- 20.—Peter Wood—Mary Cooley
- 21.—Joel Wood—Elizabeth Cooley
- 22.—Lovina Wood—John Livingstone
- 23.—John Wood—Elizabeth Clark
- 24.—Harriet Wood—Joshua Clark
- 25.—John Allen—Mary Cooley
- 26.—Olive Allen—Aaron Craig
- 27.—Margaret Allen—Samuel Geer
- 28.—Annie Allen
- 29.—William Allen
- 30.—Richard Allen—Comfort Allard
- 31.—Abraham Allen—Comfort Gage
- 32.—Charles Allen
- 33.—Daniel Allen
- 34.—John Clark
- 35.—James Clark
- 36.—Annie Clark—John Butler
- 37.—Elizabeth Clark—John Wood
- 38.—Amasa Lewis—Hannah Knowlton
- 39.—Silas Lewis—Annie Stevens
- 40.—Stewart Lewis
- 41.—Martha Lewis—Mr. Temple
- 42.—Diana Lewis
- 43.—Harriet Lewis—Amasa Knowlton
- 44.—Laura Lewis—Samuel Porter
- 45.—Salome Garlick—William Clark
- 46.—Melissa Garlick—James Todd
- 47.—Annie Garlick—Mr. Boylen 48.—William Garlick
- 49.—Philemon Garlick
- 50.—Reuben Garlick

Descendants of Edward Savage younger brother of Captain John Savage

SONS

- 1.—James Savage
- 2.—Peter Savage 1774-1839—Ruth Hayes (daughter of Jacob Hayes)
- 3.—Capt. John Edward Savage 1778-1856—Lucy Kilborn

SON OF JAMES SAVAGE

4.—David Savage—Lucretia Hayes

CHILDREN OF DAVID SAVAGE

5.—James C. Savage b. 1819—Miss Blampin

6.—Ruth Savage 1821 7.—Jacob Savage 1823 8.—David Savage 1825

9.—Dennis Savage 1827—Miss Blampin 10.—Harriet Savage 1829—Mr. Shute

11.—William Savage 1831

12.—George W. Savage 1834 13.—Lucretia Savage 1837

14.—Daniel Savage 1839

CHILDREN OF PETER SAVAGE

15.—Edward Savage 1810 (died young)

16.-Mary Savage 17—Sarah Savage 18.—Elizabeth Savage 19.—Rosetta Savage 20.—Lucretia Savage 21.—Harriet Savage 23.—James H. Savage

22.—Peter W. Savage 24.—Edward H. Savage 25.—Sophronia Savage—Francis Geer

CHILDREN OF CAPT, JOHN EDWARD SAVAGE

26.—Lieut. Col. Benjamin Savage—Elizabeth Savage

27.—Joseph Savage—Sophronia Shepard

28.—John Alexander Savage—Margaret Todd

29.—Daniel R. Savage—Caroline Camber 30.—Almira Savage—Fred Goodwill

31.—Matilda Savage—John Dixon

32.—Mary Savage—James Roach 33.—Lucy Savage—Charles Howk

All new Settlers were required to take the oath and subscribe to the Declaration required. Among Captain Savage's papers is the following list of names for Shefford from 1795 to 1818. The name of Edward Roberts from Ireland does not appear on this list as he came later in 1822.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, A. B. do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George, and him will defend to the utmost of my power, against all traitorous conspiracies, and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his Person, Crown and Dignity. And I will do my utmost endeavour, to disclose and make known to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against him or any of them; And all this I do swear, without any equivocation mental evasion, or secret reservation, and renouncing all pardons and dispensations from any power or person whomsoever to the contrary. So help me God.

AGE

46—True Tuttle

52—Thaddeus Tuttle

49—Anthony Cutler

41—Jonathan Herrick 30—Gilman Graves

41—John Bell

36—Robert Todd

50—Simon Doore 27—Josiah Doore

39—John Clark 22—David Savage

41—Seth Alexander 58—Alexander Douglass

28—Jeremiah Fortin 33—Alvin Griggs

31—Roswell Spaulding

20—Simon Todd 15—James Hayes

17—John Allen, Jr. 16—Abraham Allen

29—Hezekiah Lawrence 16—Anthony Cutler, Jr.

21—Anthony Alaire 37—Cyrus Alexander

42—John Savage, Jr. 15—Lieucratus Lawrence

15—Derias Hirrington 31—Edward Doore

—Moses Glidden—Sheldon Wells—Whipple Wells

—Samuel Townsend —Epenetus Townsend

—Richard Wells, Jr.
—John Williams

—Balcarus Craig —Jonathan Church —Thomas Craig, Jr.

—Nathaniel Church —Dudley Church, Jr.

John Mchard
Jedediah Bliss
Jonathan Glidden
Charles Kathan

—Samuel Wood —Edmund Winchester

-Aaron Craig
-E. Bronson
-Gilburt Vanallen

—Gilburt Vanallen —Samuel Berry —Gideon Bull

—Joshua Bull

AGE

44—John Allen

46—John Katchapa

20—Darvilla Lawrence 41—Edward Graves

37—Peter Savage 30—S. Kinneson

38—Samuel Bell 29—Dudley Hayes

31—Peter Vanalane

31—John Berry 16—George Bell

16—Joshua Alexander 52—Daniel Lewis

52—Daniel Lewis 23—Chester Cooley

20—John Bell, Jr. 30—Nathaniel Herrick

18—Joel Spaulding 15—Rodney Lewis 15—John Griggs

23—Calvin Goddard 17—Roswell Cutler

27—Lewis Sangray 46—Joseph Parce

28—Townsend Wells 47—Samuel Lawrence 39—Lott Herrington

20—Daniel C. White

43—Hezekiah Wood —Alfred Nash

—Hermanus Truax —William Wells —Clark Hall

-Clark Hall -Philip Wood -Henry Benham

-Frederic Pitts
-William Sargeant
-Samuel Wells

—Ira Benham—Dudley Church—Safford Bennet

—Safford Bennet —John Spaulding —Eben Hoyt

—Chauncy Cooley —George H. Craig

—Jonathan Bump
—Silas Craig

—Frederic Kellogg
—Luke Blodgett
—Abraham Sayage

-Abraham Savage
-Asa Lewis

-Aaron Bull



